

REMARKS

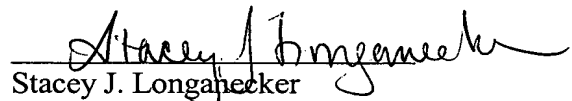
Claims 1-21 are pending, and claims 22-51 are withdrawn. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-16. Applicant also notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 20 and 21 if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, by the present amendment, claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 20. Claim 21 has been amended to change the dependency thereof from claim 20 to claim 17. Claim 16 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Claims 17-19 have been canceled to expedite issuance of the application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue prosecution of these canceled claims in a continuation application.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application, including claims 1-17 and 21, is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Stacey J. Longanecker  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 33,952

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.  
1300 19<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 659-9076

Dated: 10 January, 2005